



# De Bello Gallico

## Book One

### Chapters 15-18

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# Chapter 15

- The following day after the Helvetians refused to give hostages to Caesar, they continued on their journey and Caesar followed them close behind.
- Caesar's cavalry (4000 men) engaged in battle with the Helvetian cavalry (500 men). The Helvetians were victorious.
- Caesar prohibited his cavalry from going into battle with the Helvetian rear.
- No more than five or six miles were between the rear of the Helvetians and the Roman vanguard.
- They marched like this for 15 days.

# Chapter 16

- Caesar kept on agitating the Aedui about the grain supply that they promised the Caesar.
- Caesar had no grain to feed his army and the Aedui continued to make excuses for not having the grain ready.
- Cesar reprimanded the Aedui when they continued to push him off even as the day promised for the distribution of grain to his chiefs, such as Diviciacus and Liscus, approached.
- Caesar was highly upset with the Aedui, because they were not helping Caesar especially since they were the ones who urged Caesar into the war with the Helvetians.

# Chapter 17

- Liscus, moved by Caesar's speech, confessed to Caesar what he knew about the matter.
- He told Caesar that there were powerful people, more powerful than magistrates, that were discouraging them from giving the grain that they promised and they would tell them that it is better to submit to the government of fellow Gauls than that of the Romans.
- He said that these men also believed that if the Romans defeated the Helvetians then they would be free from all the Aedui and the rest of Gaul.
- Liscus told Caesar this information although it was risky which is why he spent much time silent on the matter.

# Chapter 18

- Caesar believes that Dumnorix, brother of Diviciacus, is responsible.
- After talking to Liscus in private, he is sure that it is Dumnorix.
- Dumnorix had a large influence not only in his state ( holding a large number of private property and cavalry), but also in neighboring states. For example: he married his mother to a noble and influential man among the Bituriges, he was married to a Helvetian, and he married his sisters off to other states.
- He hated the Romans, because their arrival weakened his power.
- He hoped to obtain control of the Helvetians if anything were to happen to the Romans.
- Caesar found out that the quarrel between the cavalry was done by Dumnorix, since he was in charge of the cavalry sent by Aedui to Caesar for aid. Because of this, the cavalry was dismayed.